

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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SUPERINTENDENT TOM HORNE ENCOURAGED BY RESULTS OF FIRST RETAKE OF AIMS TEST

PHOENIX (Monday, December 20, 2004) -- State schools chief Tom Horne today announced encouraging results of the first of four retakes of the high school AIMS test. Those figures showed significant gains in the number of students passing in reading, writing and mathematics.

Students who did not pass all or part of the AIMS test in the spring of 2004 had their first opportunity to retake the test this past October and November. Of all sophomores who took the test last year, the passing rate increased from 39 to 51 percent in math; 59 to 72 percent in reading; and 62 to 78 percent in writing.

"I'm very encouraged by this progress," Horne said. "Arizona students understand the significance of passing AIMS in order to graduate. We're working hard to give educators the tools they need to help the students achieve goals. Sticking to a timetable for accomplishment is important in maintaining student motivation."

Horne added, "In the absence of any AIMS test, about 70 percent of last year's sophomores would graduate, a graduation rate which is above the national average. The increase in the number of students passing is encouraging, and there are three more tries. I believe that for students who would graduate if there were no high stakes test, more than 90 percent will pass by the fifth retake."

Results of the AIMS retake are available at www.ade.az.gov

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